The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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Closing and reinstallation of American galleries at The Cleveland Museum of Art

The two galleries in The Cleveland Museum of Art devoted solely to American art--galleries 227 and 228--closed for renovation on February 13, 1995, and will reopen March 24, 1995. The works of art in these galleries--furniture, painting, and silver from 1700 to 1825--will be integrated to clarify the relationship between the works of art and the life in early America that they reflect.

The purpose of the reinstallation is to create contextual settings rather than "period" rooms. The new gallery space will feature architectural details and colors appropriate to the interiors of early American buildings. A new case for silver will be built, in the form of a cupboard, an additional echo of early American rooms.

Specific construction will include new light tracks that allow light to wash walls and highlight pictures and furniture, and a new furniture platform floor will be laid in herringbone pattern.

New wall texts and labels will take as their goal making the works of art, and their makers and users, more readily understandable to all museum visitors. Exhibited with more attention to chronology, works of art in these galleries will especially help the many school classes who visit them with museum instructors every year understand the Colonial period (1700 to about 1785) and the Federal period (about 1780 to 1825).

Later works of American art are exhibited with works of European art in galleries 229 through 240.

The reinstallation is the work of a museum staff team: Robert P. Bergman, Director; Henry H. Hawley, Chief Curator of Later Western Art; Katherine Solender, Curator of Special Programs, Education & Public Programs; David Steinberg, Assistant Curator of Paintings; and Jeffrey Strean, Chief Exhibition and Lighting Designer.

For additional information, please contact Adele Z. Silver, Communications & Marketing, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland OH 44106-1797; 216/421-7340.